

# Santa Fe Weekly Gazette.

Saturday, December 31, 1851.

## The Navajos.

The Navajos have heretofore submitted and clothed themselves, asking no favors of the Government.

The above paragraph is from the New Mexican, the 10th December and so is the following:

Once more we respectfully submit, that as the Indians are habituated to the mountains and our own people to the plains, that they each be permitted to occupy the localities for which they are fitted, in which no doubt satisfied and really contented they may enjoy themselves without rations—half or full—from the government, and protection without the expense of army bays.

In these two paragraphs we have the whole of the Indian programme proposed by the set who manage the New Mexican. The first is cracked, it shall thrown away, and the latter is headed to the people of the Territory to enjoy. What a world of ignorance is there in the declaration that the Navajos have been for substantial and clothed themselves, asking no favors of the Government. "None have they asked."

... factors of the Territory and people of New Mexico, you also have it cast upon you furnish them the means to submit and clothe themselves? Let the hundreds of thousands of sheep, the tens of thousands of mules and cattle they have stolen, the wagons and children they have carried off captive, and the blood of the slain of some of our best men, and bravest citizens, answer this interrogatory. This last annual report of depredations committed by the Indians, which was made and published in accordance with an act of the Legislature, shows that in the year 1852 New Mexico contributed \$217,253.75 in property, slightly damaged and foray, wounded towards subduing and clothing these savages. This was a large amount of property for our people to lose and a large number of lives to be sacrificed by the Territory, mercy for the purpose of permitting the Navajos to enjoy the luxury of subduing and subjecting themselves without bringing ruin to the humiliation of asking favors of the Government. But large as it was, and all will admit that they should have lived very comfortably on it, it was no exception to contributions of a similar kind made for many previous years. Their levies had been so exacting and onerous that many of our most able-bodied people were reduced to the brink of destitution, and hundreds had given up in despair of ever again being able to earn enough of this world's goods to enable them to live with the necessities of life about them. This is how they exhort themselves, and this is where the New Mexican wishes them to be permitted to begin again, and continue for an indefinite period of time. If the Navajos are permitted to go back to the mountains for which they are so well fitted, as I modestly suggest by the New Mexican, they will fully understand what the Indians mean, and they will not be slow to avail themselves of all the advantages to which it would entitle them. How they have passed through many trying scenes, and many of them connected with these same Navajos, but those which would follow upon introducing that tribe loose now upon the native mountains would be without parallel in anything that has been recorded in the past history. It will require no vivid imagination to see to what extents their rapacity would carry them, and to what a deplorable condition that rapacity would in a very short time reduce our people. The proposition seems to be so horrible, so destitute of any one of the feelings which animate the human breast, that it cannot, in our opinion, meet with a cordial response in any one who has more regard for the welfare of the white man than he has for the perpetration of the savage propensities of the Indian, or who would rather see New Mexico prosperous and happy than see the savage gashed with blood, rich with plunder, and gleeful at the war dance over the scalp of the white man.

But says the New Mexican they not only submitted and clothed themselves, but they asked no favors of the Government. Wonderful, indeed, is it not, that they asked no favors of a government with which they were at war, whose citizens they were daily and hourly robbing, and murdering. Whilst they were thus in a condition far removed from that which would permit them to ask favors of the government if they were a source of expense to the government as well as destructive to the industrial interests of the Territory. It is said, and we think the estimate is rather below than above the mark, that the government has spent about thirty millions of dollars for the maintenance of troops in New Mexico to fight and subdue the Navajos. This immense expense the New Mexican would have incurred in order to let the Indians remain in these mountains for which they are so well fitted. Let come what may—devastating upon the Territory—lives sacrificed—Indians run riot in villages—enormous expenditure of government money—all this, and more, would the country be in control of the New Mexican see prehend, in order that their subduing may be accomplished.

The proposition is an insult to the people and to the government. We know

well that the mad scheme will be in favor from the latter, and it will be invoked thence by the former. It is settled upon the policy of colonizing the Navajo on the Pecos at the Bosque Redondo, and to that policy it will unquestionably adhere unless, in some authority or other, the people should insist upon their being treated as those say they should be treated, who were quoted at the beginning of this article.

We have here exposed the absurd legislation which is now in session ask that the Navajos should be sent back to their own country, their petition might, and should, meet with a favorable response from Congress at its session of next year. But what is to be done? The Navajos would be loose, and by our request. They would rob, but because we asked that they might have permission to do so. They would be at the long catalogue of crime which makes up their past history, but because we petitioned that they should have the privilege of doing it. And if in the extremity of our distress we should turn our faces towards Washington and sent up a petition for relief, how would we be answered?

There could but one response. We would be told, and told truly, that in 1852 the Navajos were put upon a reservation by the government. During that year, your people had no trouble with them. They were living at peace with you and you with them. The government thought it was the best disposition that could be made of them, and at great expense made all needful preparation for maintaining permanent peace between you and them. You preferred that it should be otherwise, and your preference was complied with. The condition of things which you find in your midst is of your own selection and you must, as best you can, suffer the consequences of your own acts. When the government offered you the most complete protection that could be afforded against the outrages of these same Indians you would not accept it, but asked that it should be withdrawn. It will not do to say that you were mistaken in regard to the policy you should have pursued. Your information on the subject was as good then as it is now. Before the Indians were sent to the Bosque Redondo, you, annually, and without intermission, petitioned for relief and when it was given, you refused to receive it, and what guarantee is there that your conduct would be any different now from what it was then, should your prayers be listened to?

This is the condition to which New Mexico would be reduced, and a useful condition it could not be. The Legislature should see to it that they do not give the advantage to the Navajos in this controversy which has been so unnecessarily raised over them. Had they employed agents to advise them on the subject, they could have pursued the course now pursued by you, and should the Navajos accomplish their purpose they would be entitled to the existing privilages of the Navajo tribe, and would be subjected to the eternal curse of the people of the Territory of New Mexico.

## Plain English.

Mr. Johnson, of the N. M. Press, desires us to put his concerns in plain English of the article which appears in the Gazette of the 17th inst., in part as follows:

"The Navajos, which is in plain English. We may not be as well qualified to judge of what is plain English as the learned Editor of the Press, yet we must be allowed to say that the language referred to by him is quite as plain English as the following passage which we quote from the press of Dec 8th of Nov. last.

"Nor did we criticize Colonel Collins' antecedents for the sake of reason, and because we did not wish to wound the feelings of innocent parties unfortunately connected with him, and for the additional reason that he was then absent from the Territory, and did not wish to take advantage of the offence given by those who maligned him.

"We beg Benedict's pardon for thus adding sworn statements against his im-

"petuity as a Judge when he did nothing more than give what those who knew said against us. It is an advantage we will prosecute by citing the affidavit which Army made about a year ago in reference to his offering to go partners in the printing. There is, however, another thing which we will tell that those who knew say, and it is pertinent to this branch of the subject. About a year ago Benedict did not deny his connection with the thumb-paper. He excused himself to us for it, and we gave him the benefit of the doubt. The Attorney brought suits in Benedict's court which required orders of publication to be made. The Attorney did not wish their process to be made in the thumb-

"paper. Now let, Chief Justice, mind you reader, that in the clerk's office, make up the process of publication, made them double the length there was any necessity for their being sent them to the thumb-paper for publication, and to end the litigants a good round black mail for having brought their suits before a Judge who was, as a political aspirant, and who had, and has, a little newspaper to maintain to support his pretensions. This might be considered by those who know, conduct as becoming a Chief Justice.

"There are a thousand and one other things to say, but those who know, in regard to the many objections there are to Benedict's being a Judge in New Mexico, but we will not impose upon the reader's patience by detailing them to now, but may let them to another time if circumstances shall require it.

"For the present, Russell is satisfied with

his "Tit for Tat," and he hopes that he has done Benedict, Chief Justice though it may be, that he has weak and assaultive power as well as others, and that his position gives him no right to assail the character, or attempt to injure the business of a private citizen, however humble he may be.

The CASPIANIS IN MISSOURI.—Baron P. Spence late of Co. "G," Cal. Vol. writes to Lieut. Lyons under date of Fort Laramie Nov. 10, that the first detachment of discharged Californians, consisting of seventy men of Companies "A," "E," and "F," arrived in Kansas City in time to participate in the battle against Price. After the battle their remained but forty three alive.

That shows what sort of fighting material the California Volunteers are made of.

The Masonic celebration on Tuesday was a fine affair. The new hall in the upper story of Elberg & Amburg's Building, was formally dedicated to the use of the Order. It is the finest room of the Territory, and has been fitted up at great expense to the Order, which is said to be in a flourishing condition.

The dinner at the Eldorado is said to have been gotten up in the best style, and to have passed off to the entire satisfaction of all the participants.

In the procession, which was large, ap-

peared many of our most prominent citizens bearing the regalia of the Order.

Not having heard the dedication address we can only say what those who did hear it. Some said it was not as good as they expected it would be, and they were consequently disappointed. Others said it was as good as could be expected.

Christmas passed off quietly in the city this year. There was a general disposition on the part of all citizens to enjoy themselves in the manner which best conformed to their own peculiar notions.

The ball at the Fonda, given under the supervision of Maj. Magruder was a pleasant affair.

The Contraband Scoundrels have changed the character of their performances, and will hereafter give theatrical exhibitions. On Monday night Bombastes Parsons, and other players will put on the stage. Go and see them.

It seems that we are to have no more mails from the States for an indefinite period. For the last two weeks past the coach has arrived from Bent's Fort, but has brought us no papers or letters from points east of that point.

Those who know, say that politics have a strong bearing upon Benedict when in discharge of his official business.

I only remember the case of Rodgers, whom he had long whilst an appeal to the Supreme Court was pending. Those who know, say that was a most unprecedented case, and that the hanging was calculated to create popularity in some quarters. But aside from this, and other things of this nature which those who know are told us, we have the sworn statement of Hon. Jose J. Allegro, which was put on file in the Adjunto Office less than a year ago, and was recently issued by the court and state offices in the case of Mr. Gallo.

Kirby Benedict, a man of good character, was his mother, and rival opponent in the election canvass, between himself and Persim, and this man, Kirby believes, as well from the general character of said Chief Justice as from his old bitter and unrelenting hostility to his election, that the testimony cannot be taken in his cause before him, and the Benedict, with any show of fairness or impartiality.

This is not mere say so. It is substantiated by swearing, done by one of the most prominent citizens of the Territory, and the Secretary of State.

Parsons at attention, and to order for MILITARY PAYMENT.

Bent's Ft., N. M., Dec. 17, 1851.

Col. J. L. COLON,

DEA. OROZCO.—Apart from the ordinary routine of Garrison duty there has been little worthy of notice here lately.

But the late open and sunny weather, although varied occasionally by a strong east wind from the Black north, has afforded unusual facilities for improvements on land and farms on the reservation. In fact, the advantage has been taken of this to create popularity in some quarters. But aside from this, and other things of this nature which those who know are told us, we have the sworn statement of Hon. Jose J. Allegro, which was put on file in the Adjunto Office less than a year ago, and was recently issued by the court and state offices in the case of Mr. Gallo.

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